THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) A "Visit India 2009" Scheme has been announced by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel of India. The incentives being offered by the stakeholders to all tourists from overseas, include complimentary air tickets, hotel rooms, local tours, etc.

Due to these initiatives, the downward trend in foreign tourist arrivals to the country has shown marked improvement with the month of June, 2009 registering an increase of 0.2% in foreign tourist arrivals to the country as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year.

**Muziris Heritage Circuit**

1449. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent authority of Kerala had submitted a project 'Development of Muziris Heritage Circuit' on 26th February, 2009 under Circuit Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the action taken on the above submissions in detail;

(c) if so, whether above submissions would be considered affirmatively;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A project proposal for development of Muziris Heritage Circuit connecting Historically and Archaeologically important places in Kodungalloor as a mega project, was received during 2008-09 at an estimated cost of Rs. 6775.00 lakh. Since the project was not as per scheme guidelines of the Ministry of Tourism, hence it was not sanctioned.

During the Eleventh Plan, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned projects worth Rs. 7393.83 lakh for integrated development of tourism in the State of Kerala which also includes a project for the Development of Kodungalloor Heritage Tourism Circuit with Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 361.75 lakh.

**Hotel rooms for Commonwealth Games**

1450. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made arrangements for rooms in hotels/motels to address shortage of accommodation for tourists in National Capital during Commonwealth Games 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of new hotel projects sanctioned and construction works going on?